

Corporation were eliminated, the Society and its affiliates would no longer monopolize or threaten to monopolize contract medicine."

The foregoing factors are pointed out because, to the best of our knowledge, no Blue Shield plan limits physician participation to members of a county or state medical association, and, if we are correctly informed, most Blue Shield plans pay benefits whether the patient has selected a participating physician or not. This being so, it appears that the decision of the Washington State Supreme

Court has no effect upon the operations of any Blue Shield plan.

Finally, it is worthy of note that the operations of Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, while lawful in Washington and Oregon, would appear to be completely unlawful in practically all of the remaining 46 states, because it is the general rule at common law, as well as by statute in some states, that a corporation may not employ physicians, attorneys or dentists and then sell their services to the public.

Letter to the Editor . . .

Organ-Specific Blood Vessels

Experimental evidence suggesting marked differences between the vascular endotheliums of different organs and tissues is reported by Pressman and Sherman¹ of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York City. They found that when radioiodinated (I^{131}) anti-mouse-kidney serum is injected intravenously into mice, from 0.5 to 1 per cent of the radioactivity is localized in the kidneys. This localized antibody can be removed by dilute (pH 10.5) NaOH elution of the perfused (blood-free) kidney. If the resulting recovered ("purified") radioactive antibody is injected intravenously into a second mouse about 8 per cent of it localizes in its kidneys. Pressman believes this localization of purified anti-kidney antibodies is on the surface of the vascular endothelium. This conclusion he confirmed by radioautographs² showing a marked concentration of radioactivity in the glomeruli within as little as 2.5 minutes after intravenous injection.

By a similar technique the New York immunologists studied the localization of radioiodinated anti-

rat-lung antibodies recovered by pulmonary elution. Injected intravenously into rats, this purified radioactive anti-lung antibody showed a striking localization in the lungs.

From these and other data Pressman concluded that there are marked differences between different regional vascular endotheliums. This suggests different functions for the epitheliums of different organs and tissues, conceivably mechanisms for the selection transmissions of different nutritional substances or excretion products. Pressman further believes that these endothelial differences are basic factors in the etiology of glomerulonephritis and other diseases resulting from autoimmunization.

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REFERENCES

1. Pressman, D., and Sherman, B.: J. Immunol., 67:15-21, July 1951.
2. Pressman, D., Eisen, H. N., and Fitzgerald, P. J.: J. Immunol., 64:281, 1950.

